

COUNTRY DATA: SOMALIA : Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Britain withdrew from British Somaliland in 1960 to allow its protectorate to join with Italian Somaliland and form the new nation of Somalia. In 1969, a coup headed by Mohamed SIAD Barre ushered in an authoritarian socialist rule characterized by the persecution, jailing and torture of political opponents and dissidents. After the regime's collapse early in 1991, Somalia descended into turmoil, factional fighting, and anarchy. In May 1991, northern clans declared an independent Republic of Somaliland that now includes the administrative regions of Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool. Although not recognized by any government, this entity has maintained a stable existence and continues efforts to establish a constitutional democracy, including holding municipal, parliamentary, and presidential elections. The regions of Bari, Nugaal, and northern Mudug comprise a neighboring semi-autonomous state of Puntland, which has been self-governing since 1998 but does not aim at independence; it has also made strides toward reconstructing a legitimate, representative government but has suffered some civil strife. Puntland disputes its border with Somaliland as it also claims portions of eastern Sool and Sanaag. Beginning in 1993, a two-year UN humanitarian effort (primarily in the south) was able to alleviate famine conditions, but when the UN withdrew in 1995, having suffered significant casualties, order still had not been restored. In 2000, the Somalia National Peace Conference (SNPC) held in Djibouti resulted in the formation of an interim government, known as the Transitional National Government (TNG). When the TNG failed to establish adequate security or governing institutions, the Government of Kenya, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), led a subsequent peace process that concluded in October 2004 with the election of Abdullahi YUSUF Ahmed as President of a second interim government, known as the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of the Somali Republic. The TFG included a 275-member parliamentary body, known as the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP). President YUSUF resigned late in 2008 while United Nations-sponsored talks between the TFG and the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) were underway in Djibouti. In January 2009, following the creation of a TFG-ARS unity government, Ethiopian military forces, which had entered Somalia in December 2006 to support the TFG in the face of advances by the opposition Islamic Courts Union (ICU), withdrew from the country. The TFP was increased to 550 seats with the addition of 200 ARS and 75 civil society members of parliament. The expanded parliament elected Sheikh SHARIF Sheikh Ahmed, the former CIC and ARS chairman as president on 31 January 2009, in Djibouti. Subsequently, President SHARIF appointed Omar Abdirashid ali SHARMARKE, son of a former president of Somalia, as prime minister on 13 February 2009. SHARMARKE resigned in September 2010 and was replaced by Mohamed Abdullahi MOHAMED, aka Farmajo, a dual US-Somali citizen that lived in the United States from 1985 until his return to Somalia in October 2010. The creation of the TFG was based on the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC), which outlines a five-year mandate leading to the establishment of a new Somali constitution and a transition to a representative government following national elections. However, in January 2009 the TFP amended the TFC to extend TFG's mandate until 2011.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Eastern Africa, bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, east of Ethiopia
Area	637,657 sq km

Climate	principally desert; northeast monsoon (December to February), moderate temperatures in north and hot in south; southwest monsoon (May to October), torrid in the north and hot in the south, irregular rainfall, hot and humid periods (tangambili) between monsoons
Natural Resources	uranium and largely unexploited reserves of iron ore, tin, gypsum, bauxite, copper, salt, natural gas, likely oil reserves
Total Renewable Water Resources	15.7 cu km (1997)
Freshwater Withdrawal	3.29 cu km/yr (domestic 0%/ industrial 0%/ agricultural 100%)
Natural Hazards	recurring droughts; frequent dust storms over eastern plains in summer; floods during rainy season
Environmental Issues	famine; use of contaminated water contributes to human health problems; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; desertification
PEOPLE	
Population	10,112,453 <i>note: this estimate was derived from an official census taken in 1975 by the Somali Government; population counting in Somalia is complicated by the large number of nomads and by refugee movements in response to famine and clan warfare (July 2010 est.)</i>
Ethnic Groups	Somali 85%, Bantu and other non-Somali 15% (including Arabs 30,000)
Religions	Sunni Muslim
Languages	Somali (official), Arabic, Italian, English
Literacy Rate	total population: 37.8% (age 15 and over) male: 49.7%; female: 25.8% (2001 est.)
Major Infectious Diseases	degree of risk: high food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever vectorborne diseases: dengue fever, malaria, and Rift Valley fever water contact disease: schistosomiasis animal contact disease: rabies (2009) HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate 0.5 %; 24,000 people living with HIV/AIDS; 1,600 people died (2007 est.)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	no permanent national government; transitional, parliamentary federal government
Independence	1 July 1960 (from a merger of British Somaliland that became independent from the UK on

	26 June 1960 and Italian Somaliland that became independent from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship on 1 July 1960 to form the Somali Republic)
Constitution	25 August 1979, presidential approval 23 September 1979 <i>note: the formation of transitional governing institutions, known as the Transitional Federal Government, is currently ongoing</i>
Legal System	no national system; a mixture of English common law, Italian law, Islamic sharia, and Somali customary law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	bananas, sorghum, corn, coconuts, rice, sugarcane, mangoes, sesame seeds, beans; cattle, sheep, goats; fish
Industries	a few light industries, including sugar refining, textiles, wireless communication
Import commodities	manufactures, petroleum products, foodstuffs, construction materials, qat
Import Partners	Djibouti 30.84%, Kenya 8.06%, India 7.86%, China 6.97%, Brazil 6.59%, Yemen 4.97%, Oman 4.72%, UAE 4.6% (2009)
Export Commodities	livestock, bananas, hides, fish, charcoal, scrap metal
Export Partners	UAE 58.27%, Yemen 20.32%, Saudi Arabia 3.78% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$600 (2010 est.)
Population below poverty line	NA%

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: SOMALIA

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	50.4 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	--
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	--
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	8.2%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	--
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	--
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	58.0%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	86.0%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	33%
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	--
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	--
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	--

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	--
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	--
Population without Access to Water (%)	70%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	77%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	0.07 %
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	N/A
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	N/A
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	N/A
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	37.5%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.3%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.6%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	0.5%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$84.70
Population without Electricity (%)	--

